and cleanliness. Throughout the movie, she lives up to the name by being kind, despite her stepmother’s cruelty. Even when with the dwarfs, Snow White takes on a maternal role and never judges them based off of their appearance, with the exception of wanting them to clean up.

On the other hand, the older stepmother, whose beauty is fading, is the ill-tempered and evil woman. This motif runs through many Disney movies where the female villains are depicted as older and not as pretty. “The beauty contest is a constant and primary device in many fairy tales”(Lieberman 385). Snow White’s stepmother decides that if Snow White was dead, then she would once again be “the fairest of them all.” When the stepmother is at her worst, she turns herself into an ugly, old hag. Even then, Snow White is trusting and nonjudgmental of the older woman. A child seeing the lengths to which the evil queen goes to become the most beautiful woman again may make young girls feel that being beautiful is the goal. However, since Snow White is rewarded for her beauty, both inside and out, with the prince of her dream at the end, it is far more likely that children will want to be both beautiful and kind. Although this may not seem significant, it is far better than feeling that physical beauty is all that matters in the world, which is what the media still depicts many decades after the release of Snow White.

Between the late 1950s and late 1980s, Disney did not produce any princess movies. During those thirty years, women made huge strides in the feminist movement and their gender roles did begin to change. As compared to the earlier statistic, by 1972, 66% of women and 62% of men approved of married women working (Davis 216). Between the releases of Sleeping Beauty in 1959 and The Little Mermaid in 1989, Walt